



## **The Mental Health / Developmental Services Collaborative**

**Carlos Flores, Leslie Tremaine  
Co-Chairs**

**March 11, 2009  
Minutes**

### **In Attendance:**

Lori Banales  
Barbara Devaney  
David Riester  
Stephen Mouton  
Eliana Lois (phone)  
Tom Keenen  
Ann Christen

Bob Baldo  
Jeanie Thurston  
Peggie Webb  
Lon Russell  
Jeff Payne  
Jane Plocher  
Ken Carabello

Lisa Rosene  
Jo Ellen Fletcher  
Beth Robey  
Olivia Balcao  
Tony Anderson  
John Saylor  
Susan Burger

Leslie Tremaine (by phone)  
Irma Castaneda  
Carlos Flores  
Tom Kelly  
Tricia Howell  
Kathleen Kasmire

### **I. Introductions**

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Carlos Flores. Introductions were made. Carlos announced that Leslie Tremaine would be joining by phone. Eliana Lois also participated by phone. Beth announced that Patricia Ryan was in Washington D.C. receiving an award and would not be in attendance. Three SELPA directors have joined the Task Force: John Saylor from the San Juan School District in Sacramento, Tricia Howell from the Napa County Office of Ed. and Jane Plocher from Colusa County Office of Ed.

### **II. Approval of Minutes/Agenda**

Minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.

### **III. Report from Consultants**

David and Beth gave a report on activities since the last meeting. The 16-bed facility in Yuba City will be ready to open as soon as some final regional center funding issues are resolved. David and Beth made a presentation to the SELPA Directors in order to determine their level of interest in co-sponsoring a series of regional summits on services to children with a dual diagnosis. The Directors were very receptive and encouraged the co-chairs of their interagency collaboration committee to join the MH/DD Task Force. Beth talked about the tour of the Multi-disciplinary Assessment Center in Fresno which she and Dave toured. The Center will be a good model to feature at the regional summits. Further discussion ensued about the Summits, how they might be funded, and how to break out the regions. At this point, Beth suggested that the SELPA Directors be given an opportunity to talk about their perspective on challenges they are

facing serving the dually diagnosed population. Tricia spoke about their multi-agency residential placement team and the special day classes which have been established for these children in Napa. Jane spoke about the lack of resources in her tiny county and the fact that children sometimes have to be transported over an hour to schools in adjacent counties. John Saylor spoke about the explosion of children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum and difficulties in dealing with older and larger children 13-22, with significant behavioral problems. Discussion ensued about children pre-school age. Dr. Tom Kelly talked about his interest in more early intervention programs to identify high risk infants. There was some discussion about residential placements and the use of non-public schools. They also talked about how SELPAs are divided into regions. Beth mentioned that Mental Health Directors also meet in regional sub-groups. It was suggested that we try to schedule the summit on a day before or after an organization's regional meeting in order to facilitate attendance. Everyone agreed that travel was difficult due to the budget crisis and being short staffed. Bob stated that there were funds to put on the first Summit and Dave and Beth were directed to start working on setting it up – with the first one being in the Sacramento area.

#### IV. Budget/Legislative/Policy Update

A. Developmental Services – Bob Baldo reported that the 3% reduction in funding was made permanent and that they are expecting an additional cut in the 17 month budget. In addition, there may need to be a deficiency bill to cover the current year deficits. Bob also announced that ARCA signed the ballot argument in support of Proposition 1D which will divert Proposition 10 Funds from First Five organizations for Early Start programs which are vital to regional center clients. Bob is also concerned that the “trigger” cuts will impact regional center clients because of the loss of Medi-Cal specialty benefits like psychological services and dental care.

B. Mental Health – Leslie Tremaine joined by phone at 11 a.m. and talked about the good news in the Federal Stimulus package regarding an increase in the federal ratio for Medi-Cal services. It remains to be seen whether the State will make a corresponding reduction somewhere else and negate this benefit. She spoke about the devastating impact of the poor economy and the resulting reduced sales tax and Vehicle-in-lieu funding. This is one of the only sources of non-dedicated revenue received by county mental health departments. Finally, Leslie spoke about the ballot initiative, Proposition 1E, which would divert approximately \$273 million of MHSA dollars to fund the state share of Medi-Cal services to children known as EPSDT.

#### V. Old Business:

A. UCSF conference: Joey Fletcher reported that the conference was well attended. Beth and Dave added their praise for the conference as well and noted that Barbara Devaney received a special award. Joey added that there is a pediatric training event in San Diego scheduled for May 14-16.

B. Update on “Difficult to Serve” Projects:

- 1) San Diego: Peggiewebb gave a comprehensive report on the status of their project (see attached.) An interesting discussion ensued on the high percentage of transitional age youth being referred and the poor

outcomes of this age-group. Peggy also talked about the development of a 40 hr certificate program in Dual Diagnosis which is being developed. There was a great deal of interest in access to this training.

- 2) Far Northern: Lon reported that their three small crisis homes are proving to be very successful and that there are waiting lists.
- 3) Due to the difficulties of opening a 15 bed MHRC, Alta is looking at the establishment of a Mobile Crisis Unit. The Telecare Assertive Community Treatment Program has opened in Sacramento. This outpatient program provides intensive treatment to frequent users of inpatient psychiatric care.
- 4) The Telecare MHRC's for the Central Valley and the Bay area remain in development and progress is good.

C. DDS Project on Mental Health – Joey Fletcher– Joey explained how the MHSA money received by DDS would be spent. There is \$270,000 per year for consumer, family, and service provider training; \$270,000 per year for clinician training; and \$135,000 per year for regional planning events. Only regional centers can apply for the regional planning money and it was agreed that the San Diego Regional Center will apply for the entire amount and then sub-contract with ARCA to put together the Regional Summits on Children's Services if Carlos is able to receive approval from the other regional centers at the next meeting of the ARCA Directors Group. It was recommended by Beth that Joey contact Joan Harosi, a staff member with the California Department of Education who is coordinating how they will spend the MHSA funding CDE received.

D. Carlos will make a presentation to the Southern California Regional Centers' group on the need for secure facilities.

V. Schedule Next Meeting Time & Place –

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 10-2, at the following location:

Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza  
300 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-0100

VI. Meeting Adjourned